

## Hollydale Primary School: Autumn 2 2025

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term, we hope you have had a restful half term break! We are incredibly excited to start this new term with lots of exciting learning opportunities and topics and see what fantastic work the children will continue to produce. Elm Class will be busy preparing for their Black History Month and Christmas assembly performances this term, both of which will be shared with you.

Please ensure you add the dates detailed in this newsletter to your calendar. If you have any questions about your child's learning or any other aspect of Elm Class life, please do not hesitate to see me after school or contact me via email ([harvey64.210@lgflmail.org](mailto:harvey64.210@lgflmail.org)) or ClassDojo <https://teach.classdojo.com/>. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

**Class Teacher:** Ms Harvey

**Support Staff:** Ms Gutowska and Ms Yasmin

### **Autumn 2 2025 - This half term Year 1/2 will be learning about the following topics:**

<b>English</b>	<p>This half term begins with <i>Dragon Post</i> by Emma Yarlett. The children will start by discovering clues that suggest a mysterious creature is living in a cupboard at school, using inference skills to guess what it might be. They will then write a letter in role as Alex, the main character, followed by creating instruction menus for feeding a dragon and a journey guide for flying with one. Later in the term, Elm Class will explore <i>Billy and the Beast</i> by Nadia Shireen. Through this story, the children will develop character descriptions, write emails offering advice, design recipes, and eventually create their own version of a <i>Billy and the Beast</i> adventure. Specific grammar foci will be embedded in our English lessons throughout the term, with a focus on the use of basic punctuation, leaving spaces between words and applying phonetic knowledge to sound out words</p>
<b>Reading Records</b>	<p>The children will bring home a sharing book (free-choice book from the book corner) on Tuesday as well as a Little Wandle Phonics Books. Please read and discuss the books with your child. Parents must record in the reading records at least once a week. Please note that children are required to have their book bag with their reading record inside every day.</p> <p><b>If the phonics book that your child brings home ends up lost or damaged, parents will need to pay for a replacement. All phonics book needs to be returned by Monday morning as we will be using them to deliver our reading lessons. If we do not have the books returned, we cannot teach our reading lessons. This will be monitored and tracked carefully.</b></p>
<b>Spellings</b>	<p>We are working very hard in school to strengthen basic skills, but we need your help to boost spelling. We have created a spelling challenge to make this fun and engaging and we are offering a whole host of rewards to motivate and encourage the children to get on board!</p> <p>All that we ask, is that you help your children learn to spell the words on their challenge card. Every time they have secured a section (bronze, silver or gold), staff will check that they have indeed secured the bronze, silver or gold block and the children will receive a certificate, and they can begin learning the next set of spellings.</p> <p>We are hopeful that this will be more meaningful than testing spellings weekly and by basing it on high frequency words and words commonly used in their writing, it will be more purposeful as it is being embedded not only in Literacy but across the whole curriculum.</p>

<b>Handwriting and Presentation</b>	Children will have specific handwriting lessons to help them improve their presentation across all subjects. We will focus on letter formation and correctly joining our letters together. Children are reminded on the importance of presentation in all subjects across the curriculum. Please support this by using LetterJoin at home. <a href="https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/index.html">https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/index.html</a>
<b>Phonics</b>	Phonics will be taught every day and this will be consolidated in Literacy and weekly spellings. We will focus on the KS1 spelling rules and patterns.
<b>Maths</b>	<p>This term, Elm Class will continue developing their understanding of place value and apply this knowledge to subtraction. The children will explore subtraction as "taking away," using practical activities and visual aids to support their learning and find out how many are left in each problem. Next, Elm Class will explore 3D and 2D shapes, learning to name, describe, and compare their features through hands-on activities and practical investigations.</p> <p>They will be practicing representing numbers using different resources, counting forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s. In addition to this, weekly 'Maths Fluency' sessions will ensure their arithmetic skills are being developed to aid rapid recall of number facts.</p>
<b>Science</b>	<p>This term, our focus will be on "Materials." We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate different materials such as wood, plastic, glass, and metal.</li> <li>• Understand the difference between objects and materials.</li> <li>• Learn about melting and freezing.</li> <li>• Explore the concepts of floating and sinking.</li> <li>• Examine whether materials absorb water.</li> </ul> <p>Our big question will be: Do all materials make shadows?</p>
<b>Computing</b>	<p>Our Computing topic this half term is 'We are TV Chefs', through which we will be producing short videos of ourselves making a healthy snack in the style of a TV chef. This will involve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session 1 – children work out the steps for making a jam sandwich.</li> <li>• Session 2 – children watch the teacher making a healthy snack and record the steps, before making and recording the steps for their own recipe</li> <li>• Session 3 – children learn how to record a video</li> <li>• Session 4 – children film one another making the snack</li> <li>• Session 5 – children add a commentary to their video</li> <li>• Session 6 – children review each other's recordings and provide feedback</li> </ul>
<b>Topic (History/ Geography)</b>	<p>This term, we will focus on geography with the theme "What a Wonderful World." Our learning will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding that the Earth is spherical.</li> <li>• Accurately naming the seven continents and five oceans.</li> <li>• Recognizing that journeys can be made around the world and starting to trace a simple journey line using key vocabulary</li> </ul>
<b>R.E.</b>	This term, our Religious Education focus will be on Christianity, specifically exploring the reasons Christians celebrate Christmas. We will examine key beliefs and practices of the Christian faith, and we'll also perform the nativity story for the whole school and parents.

<b>Art / D&amp;T</b>	This term, children will explore various fabric-joining techniques as they create hand puppets inspired by characters from a popular fairy tale. They will focus on developing their technical skills in cutting, gluing, stapling, and pinning. Additionally, children will participate in festive Christmas activities.
<b>P.E.</b>	Elm will now have two PE sessions in the week – one session on <b>Tuesday</b> and another session on <b>Thursday</b> . All children are expected to come to school dressed in their PE kit (and school jumper or cardigan) on both days. There will not be a changing facility in operation. Please ensure that your child/children wear the following kit for PE: <b>Black</b> tracksuit bottoms, a <b>white</b> t-shirt or top and <b>black</b> trainers or plimsolls.
<b>Music</b>	Music will be taught by a specialist music teacher (Mr Duncan) every Thursday morning.
<b>P.S.H.E. &amp; Citizenship</b>	Our focus this half term will be 'Celebrating Differences'. We will be discussing similarities as well as differences between people as well as our own identity within wider society. We will discuss what makes themselves and other special and about what roles and responsibilities they have at home and school. Children have will also can explore the ways in which they can work and play cooperatively with others.
<b>Homework</b>	<p>We view homework as an integral part of the school experience. Active and successful pupil participation in homework supports our belief in how children learn best. Homework benefits pupils not only by promoting academic success, but also by providing valuable opportunities for parents and carers to become involved in their child's learning. Through regular homework, children develop responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline and time management. Most importantly, pupils build independence by completing school-related tasks with minimal direct help.</p> <p>Homework for <b>KS1</b> will continue to be completed in homework books.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Reading Homework</u></b></p> <p>All children <b>KS1</b>. Parents and carers are expected to record and sign their child's reading log each evening.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Spelling Homework</u></b></p> <p>Children will be given spellings to learn based on the spelling challenges and these will be tested every three weeks. Scores will be recorded and tracked using the tracking grid and the number of spellings that are tested will vary based on children's individual needs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Projects</u></b></p> <p>Homework projects are set half-termly and will often link with whole-school curriculum focus events.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework by Year Group</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 1s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phonics</li> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Number bonds to 10 and 20 (initially, extending further as appropriate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole-school and class-based home learning projects</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Years 2s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Spelling</li> <li>• Times table</li> <li>• Whole-school and class-based home learning projects</li> </ul>

<b>Educational Visit</b>	<p>St Mary Church for Christmas Performance</p>
<b>Key dates</b>	<p><b><u>November Key Dates:</u></b></p> <p><b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025</b> – School starts for all pupils</p> <p><b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> – BHM home learning project due</p> <p><b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> – Curriculum Newsletters sent home</p> <p><b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> – Anti-Bullying Week</p> <p><b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> – Remembrance Day</p> <p><b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> – Odd Sock Day, children to wear odd socks to show their support for anti-bullying for a £1.00 donation</p> <p><b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> – Road Safety Week</p> <p><b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> – BHM Assembly for EYFS and KS1 at 9:20am</p> <p><b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> – Assessment Week</p> <p><b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> – Flu Vaccine</p> <p><b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> - Braiswick photographer in school</p> <p><b><u>December Key Dates:</u></b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b> – Christmas Rehearsal at St Mary Church</p> <p><b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b> – Christmas Presentation at St Mary Church</p> <p><b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b> – Times Table Challenge</p> <p><b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b> – Christmas Class Parties</p> <p><b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b> – Christmas Lunch and Winter Jumper Day</p> <p><b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b> – Last day of term. School finishes at 1:00pm with No After School Club</p> <p><b>Winter Break:</b> Monday 22nd December 2025– Tuesday 6th January 2026</p> <p><b>INSET DAY:</b> Monday 5th January 2026</p>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<p>Please ensure that your child attends school with a fresh water bottle every day and is wearing the correct summer uniform. Our uniform encourages a sense of belonging and is compulsory for all children from Reception Class to Year 6.</p> <p><b><u>Summer School Uniform:</u></b></p> <p><b>Girls Uniform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Dresses - Red &amp; White or Green &amp; White Gingham</li> <li>• Cardigan*/ Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footwear - Black Shoes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Hijabs – White/Dark Green/Black only</li> </ul> <p><b>Boys Uniform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polo shirt – Dark green, bright red or white</li> <li>• Cardigan*/ Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trousers/ shorts (knee length) – Grey</li> <li>• Footwear - Black shoes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Water bottles</b> – Every child needs their own water bottle with their name on. Please make sure your child attends school with a water bottle every day. These can be refilled at school.</p>

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